

The Interagency Agreement

Federal agencies are faced with a constant challenge to meet their missions expediently, and oftentimes, with limited resources. To meet their missions, agencies may require consultative assistance or other services that are outside their areas of expertise. Frequently these needs are met by contracting with private sector vendors through a complicated, costly and time-consuming contracting process that can detract from efforts to achieve mission objectives. For Federal organizations needing occupational health or safety services, Federal Occupational Health (FOH) can provide these services through an alternate procurement mechanism known as an "Interagency Agreement" or IAG. Quick, simple, flexible and easy to prepare, an IAG is the convenient and easy way Federal organizations procure services from other Federal agencies.

There are a variety of compelling reasons to utilize the IAG as a means to procure services. Below are some of the major benefits of the IAG.

The Economy Act - 31 U.S.C. 1535

(the general legal authority for most interagency agreements)

This Act authorizes the head of any agency to obtain goods or services from another agency if it is determined that it is in the best interest of the Government and that the goods or services are less costly or are not available or cannot be more conveniently obtained by contracting directly with the private sector.

Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness

The time to create and implement an IAG is short compared with the contracting process, which can take up to a year or more. An IAG can be crafted in a matter of days and implemented, depending on the service provided, in as little as one to four weeks.

Convenience - Adding New Services

IAGs can be easily modified to change or add other FOH services. Where contract law does not allow private sector contracts to exceed the original statement of work without major contract modifications, IAGs can be easily expanded according to the needs of the agency.

Specificity of Services

The IAG specifies the services that are to be provided, just as a scope of work does in a solicitation or contract. FOH's IAG's are "custom-designed" to each agency's unique specifications.

Ability to Terminate

Unlike contracts with most private sector vendors, the IAG can be terminated by an agency with 30-60 days notice. Furthermore, negotiated termination costs typical with contract terminations are not incurred under IAGs.

Convenient Payment System

As a Government agency, FOH utilizes the IPAC system to receive payment for services. This method is less labor intensive and more cost-efficient than the paperwork involved with the reimbursement of a contracted vendor.

For over half a century, FOH has delivered high quality occupational health services to Federal managers. FOH's knowledge of the Federal workplace, combined with strategic partnerships with professional health, environmental and safety organizations, enables FOH to help other Federal organizations maintain a safe and healthy workplace. FOH has created a team of professionals that is unparalleled in its ability to work within the Federal structure, yet remains as flexible and innovative as any private sector provider.

Through convenient interagency agreements, FOH's Clinical Services, Wellness/Fitness Programs, Environmental Health Services, and Employee Assistance and Work/Life Programs can provide your agency with a comprehensive occupational health program that saves you time and money. Our ability to customize services enables you to integrate components of our services with existing programs, enhancing their impact and ensuring that your agency meets its obligation to provide a safe and healthy workplace.

Make Federal Occupational Health your partner in building a healthier, more productive work force. For more information, please visit us at www.foh.dhhs.gov or call us today at **1-800-457-9808**.

Because you need a healthy work force. And we can help you build one.

healthy bodies ❖ sound minds ❖ a safe place to work